

LEGALS

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**Opportunity to Comment on the Ford Project**

The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Boston Mountain Ranger District, have prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ford Project. This project is in the Main Unit east of Lake Fort Smith and southwest of Shores Lake and covers about 29,705 acres of public lands in Crawford and Franklin counties, Arkansas. This proposal includes vegetation treatments and recreation improvements designed to improve resource conditions. The project includes treating stands to increase health and resiliency of stressed, overstocked trees in the project area.

The Draft Environmental Assessment is available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44980>. The EA and supporting documentation are also available for review at the Boston Mountain Ranger District office. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from Jobi Brown at phone number 479-667-2191 (extension 2175) or email [jobi.brown@usda.gov](mailto:jobi.brown@usda.gov).

**How to Comment and Timeframe on the EA**

Comments on the Environmental Assessment will be accepted for 30 days. This comment period will begin the day after this legal notice publishes in the Southwest Times Record, the newspaper of record. The comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision by the Responsible Official.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218. Specific written comments (36 CFR 218.2) on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the publication date of the legal notice in the Southwest Times Record. This is the only way to calculate the comment period for the proposed action documented in the Environmental Assessment. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day.

Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are defined by 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2).

**Submitting Comments**

Specific written comments on the EA must be submitted via the project website, email, postal mail, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Jobi Brown, 1803 N. 18th St, Ozark, AR 72949, or by phone, [(479) 667-2191 (extension 2175)]. Electronic comments including attachments may be submitted by email in word (.docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to [comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@usda.gov](mailto:comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@usda.gov). The project website to submit comments is <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44980>. Please state "Ford Project" in the subject line when providing electronic responses, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

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